



## Administrative Office of the Courts

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*District Judge  
Hunter B. Whitesell III*

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For Immediate Release

### Judges Myers and Whitesell to serve as special judges for 1st Judicial Circuit

FRANKFORT, Ky., July 26, 2006 — Until a new judge is appointed or elected to fill the seat of retired Circuit Judge William Shadoan, two local district judges have agreed to cover the docket for the 1st Judicial Circuit.

The June 30, 2006, retirement of Judge Shadoan temporarily left Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton and Hickman counties without a circuit judge. Chief Regional District Judge Hunter B. Whitesell III, who serves Fulton and Hickman counties, and District Judge Keith Myers, who serves Ballard and Carlisle counties, have agreed to serve as special judges for the 1st Judicial Circuit so that court business can continue with minimal interruption. Effective July 27, 2006, they will begin serving Circuit Court in addition to their ongoing responsibilities to District Court.

"I am pleased to have two highly regarded judges take on this assignment," said Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert. "The people of Western Kentucky will benefit from Judges Myers and Whitesell hearing cases for Circuit Court during this transition."

"I consider this interim service a privilege and I thank Chief Justice Lambert for the opportunity," said Judge Whitesell. "It is vitally important for the business of the courts to proceed during this transition with as little interruption as possible. I intend to do everything

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Special judges for 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit/two

under the circumstances to keep the docket moving so that the new judge is not met with an unmanageable caseload."

### **Circuit Court**

Circuit Court is the court of general jurisdiction which hears civil matters involving more than \$4,000, capital offenses and felonies, divorces, adoptions, termination of parental rights, land dispute title cases and contested probate cases. Family Court is a division of Circuit Court.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is the operational arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice and supports the activities of more than 3,500 court system employees, including the elected offices of justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also provides training and education to the state's judges.

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